

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

1. **Beach remains posted at George Wyth, but advisory removed at Rock Creek; Union Grove and Lake Anita to be re-sampled**

BEACH REMAINS POSTED AT GEORGE WYTH;, BUT ADVISORY REMOVED AT ROCK CREEK; UNION GROVE AND LAKE ANITA TO BE RE-SAMPLED

DES MOINES — A swimming advisory remains in effect for the beach at George Wyth State Park in Black Hawk County. The swimming advisory at Rock Creek Lake in Jasper County has been removed.

The beaches at Union Grove Lake and Lake Anita had E. coli counts of 280 and 590 respectively and will be re-sampled since neither lake has had a history of bacteria problems in the past. If the re-sample results remain high, advisories will be posted.

The beach at Rock Creek Lake in Jasper County had an E. coli count of 180 this week, so the advisory from last week has been lifted.

The beach at George Wyth had an E. coli bacteria reading of 180 this week. While this is below the standard for a one-time test of 235, it still slightly exceeds the geometric mean of 126 for at least five results taken over a 30-day period so an advisory will remain in effect there.

Bacteria levels at beaches typically rise as a result of runoff from rainfall and can return to normal in less than two days with sunny conditions. Samples are collected from the beaches on Monday and Tuesday.

Bacteria levels at Iowa's 36 other state park beaches are within acceptable levels.

The DNR is also advising normal precautions for contact with any surface water in Iowa:

- Avoid swallowing the water

- Avoid the water if you have open cuts or wounds that could become infected by contact with bacteria
- Swimming is not recommended for persons who are very young or very old and may have problems avoiding ingestion of water, and people who have weakened immune systems due to other medical conditions.

Weekly beach monitoring results are posted on the DNR's website every Friday afternoon at <http://www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html>

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